FBIS DAILY REPORT

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NUCLEAR FUEL PLANT TO USE WEST GERMAN URANIUM

PY272121 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 27 Dec 81 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- Argentina will concoct its own nuclear fuel at the Ezeiza atomic plant beginning this February, significantly reducing its dependence on industrial countries for nuclear technology. The plant will turn out 30 nuclear fuel elements each month by the middle of 1982. At full capacity, the plant will annually consume 45 tons of zircaloy, which sheathes the fuel, and 340 tons of uranium dioxide, which will be imported from West Germany until it, too, can be made in Argentina, by the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) plant at Cordoba. The fuel will initially supply the Atucha I atomic power plant, providing all of that facility's fuel by 1985, and, by 1987, it is expected that all the fuel needed for the Atucha II nuclear power plant will also be made in Argentina. The nuclear fuel factory will be run by the Conuar Company, 75 percent of which is privately owned and the rest of which is held by the CNEA.

CNEA CHAIRMAN DISCUSSES NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY EXPORT

PY281709 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 28 Dec 81 p 9

[Text] Salta (NA) -- Argentina will export more of its burgeoning nuclear know-how to other Latin American countries thanks to its "nuclear leadership" on the continent, according to statements made to the newspaper EL TRIBUNO by Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, president of the National Commission of Atomic Energy (CNEA). Castro Madero told EL TRIBUNO that "the possibility of establishing a (nuclear) technological assistance agreement with the Soviet Union is being studied and might be finalized next year." He said that Colombia, Guatemala, and Uruguay have shown interest in buying Argentina's nuclear help and mentioned the possibility of similar deals with Mexico. Argentina has already built an atomic research centre for Peru.

Argentina's nuclear trade possibilities have been helped, Castro Madero observed, by the "acquisition of three new metal rolling machines and spare parts for the zircaloy tube (nuclear fuel sheathing) factory" and the recent arrival of "heavy water which was purchased last year." Colombia, he told ELTRIBUNO, "has asked us to present them with a technical plan for the construction of an atomic centre involving a reactor and a radioisotope plant."

Guatemala has "asked for a bid on a nuclear laboratory" and Uruguay wants a "feasibility study to verify the type of atomic centre which will best fit their needs," Castro Madero said. Mexico, he added, "presents a possibility for Argentine participation and moreover, the possibility for CNEA to train Mexican (nuclear) technicians if (Mexico) decides to use its natural uranium." Argentina, Castro Madero predicted, "will maintain its nuclear leadership in Latin America because it is continually achieving goals which are firsts for the region... For example, the production of fuel elements, the processing plant, and related and specialized enterprises."

CGT CALLS FOR ELECTIONS, RELEASE OF PRISONERS

PY240231 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0140 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA) -- The General Labor Confederation (CGT) tonight made "an urgent call for general elections of national, provincial and municipal officials throughout the country" and called for "a popular mobilization to achieve these high, patriotic objectives." The CGT made this call in a document entitled "For a Christmas in Peace," in which it outlines the union situation throughout 1981.

The declaration demands that "a state of social emergency be declared nationwide" and that "union and political prisoners be released." It also states the need that "an emergency government be instituted with full participation of all national sectors" and that "the activities of all political parties and union organizations be immediately normalized in line with their respective statutes."

The CGT adds: "In the face of the complete failure of the purported administration of the so-called process (of national reorganization), whose ineptness made it possible for a homogeneous team of technocrats at the service of multinational companies -- their masters -- to institute the international division of labor and to convert the potentially richest country on earth into a supplier of good, cheap raw material." [sentence as received] Finally, the CGT appeals to "harmony and national unity" so that all Argentines "without exclusions, that is, workers, businessmen, the church, the armed forces, political parties, intellectuals, artists, professionals and students may undertake the urgent task of taking the country out of its stagnation and of leading it toward its glorious destiny."

VIOLA ACCUSED OF HOUSING USE IMPROPRIETY

PY282258 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 27 Dec 81 p 9

[Text] Bahia Blanca (NA) -- The local daily LA NUEVA PROVINCIA said here yesterday that during his period in office former President Roberto Viola had rented a house and several flats in the federal capital to hold political talks that "gave rise to the multi-party grouping." Without mentioning its sources, the local daily said that "a splendid house with several rooms had been rented in the neighbourhood of Belgrano" and that Viola and some of his close aides -- including governors and ministers -- used to meet there quite often. The LA NUEVA PROVINCIA article stated that "the discovery of several addresses in the federal capital to be used by the national presidency" is "one of the curiosities inherited by the new government" of Lieutenant General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri. The Belgrano house in question stands in Virrey del Pino Street, while other "attractive flats" in Libertador and Talcahuano had allegedly been rented by Viola for the same ends, the article said.

CURFEW REINSTATED; TO BE LIFTED FOR NEW YEAR'S

PY261834 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1415 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Text] La Paz, 26 Dec (TELAM) -- The curfew was restored today after it had been lifted to permit families to celebrate Christmas without restrictions. The curfew extends from 0100 to 0500. This measure has been in force since 17 July 1980. The government has decided to lift the curfew again on the occasion of the New Year celebration.

13 ON HUNGER STRIKE DEMAND POLITICAL AMNESTY

PY251917 Paris AFP in Spanish 1716 GMT 25 Dec 81

[Text] La Paz, 25 Dec (AFP) -- Thirteen citizens (university students and workers) have gone on a hunger strike to demand that the military government grant a general, unrestricted amnesty to those who are detained, persecuted or exiled for political and union-related reasons, it was reported here today.

The strikers are in buildings of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) and the Messiah Methodist Church. They said they will persist in their extreme measure until the regime decrees an amnesty similar to the one adopted in 1977 when the government of Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez (1971-1978) decreed a comprehensive amnesty in the country.

NEW BELGIAN FIGHTERS CONSIDERED FOR AIR FORCE

PY241328 Paris AFP in Spanish 0117 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] La Paz, 23 Dec (AFP) -- President Celso Torrelio Villa said here today that the Bolivian Government plans to improve the strength of the armed forces. He made this statement at the graduation ceremony at the air force training school.

The president said: The air force will deserve our special attention since its integrating mission at the national and international level is very important.

It was recalled that Bolivia is studying the purchase of 52 jet fighters from Belgium at a cost of more than $50 million, although the Central Bank has not granted its endorsement for the transaction.

In his speech, General Torrelio Villa stressed that extremists are directing the internal struggle, both inside and outside the country, and they are not willing to admit that dialogue can supply solutions to the country's social problems. Dialogue does not involve, nor will it involve, paving the way for selfish ambitions.

NO PLANS TO CANCEL U.S. CHARTER CARGO FLIGHTS

PY282022 Rio de Janiero O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Dec 81 p 21

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO) -- The aeronautics minister stated yesterday that Brazil does not intend to cancel all charter cargo flights by U.S. airlines that operate in Brazil in retaliation for measures adopted by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, which canceled all of VARIG's charter flights. Advisers at the aeronautics public relations center stated that the good-will policy will be maintained with U.S. companies that operate in Brazil. They stated that the Aeronautics Ministry recognizes the right of the U.S. Government to make that decision because charter flights are not included in the agreement or in the 1946 accord, which, although it has been denounced by the Brazilian Government, is still in effect (until 20 April).

The intention of the Aeronautics Ministry is to resume talks with the U.S. Government to begin meetings in January to discuss the terms of the air agreement to be signed between the United States and Brazil.

Itamaraty spokesman Bernardo Pericas termed the measure adopted by the U.S. Government as being "retaliatory" and said Brazil was expecting that type of measure. He expressed, however, the hope that with the negotiation of a new air agreement these problems will be avoided in the future. The agreement now in effect was denounced by Brazil a month ago. Charter flights are not part of the agreement, and for this reason unilateral decisions can be adopted against them.

Itamaraty wants to include a regulation on charter flights, whether for cargo or passengers, in the new agreement. It also insists in defending VARIG against the competition of U.S. companies. Without a regulation, they will end up pushing the Brazilian company out of the market.

INDUSTRY MINISTER CONDEMNS U.S. SUGAR LEGISLATION

PY281420 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Industry Minister Joao Camilo Penna has said that the recently approved U.S. legislation on sugar production disregards the international productivity principles of the open trade policy and taxes heavily the U.S. consumer, who will have to pay a higher price for the product. This statement was made by Minister Penna in Belo Horizonte, where he commented on, or rather condemned, the law passed by the U.S. Government for the protection of local sugar production.

According to Penna, the new U.S. legislation curtails the competitiveness of Brazilian sugar in the U.S. market.

He recalled that in 1981 Brazilian sugar exports totaled about $1 billion and that the U.S. market was one of the most important buyers of Brazilian sugar. He also said the new U.S. law has two goals: First, to safeguard the local U.S. market price for U.S.-produced sugar, and second, to reduce the competitiveness of imported sugar through a substantial tariff.

Minister Penna warned sugar producers that production costs should be reduced, since prices tend to go down in the international market.

GUAYAQUIL UNDER MILITARY CONTROL TO FIGHT CRIME

PA250156 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1823 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Guayaquil, 24 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Ecuadorean Government has decided to put this Ecuadorean port of over 1 million inhabitants under military control "to curb the criminality boom currently affecting it," it has been officially announced. The measure was adopted 7 days after the kidnapping of wealthy industrialist Ernesto Jouvin Vernaza, whose whereabouts are not yet known. Guayaquil Governor Carlos Hidalgo has officially announced that beginning Friday, the 25th, "The army, the navy and the air force will collaborate with the police in patrolling the city continuously."

According to Hidalgo, "This action will make it possible to confront this social phenomenon (criminality), which is keeping residents in all urban sectors tense." On Wednesday in Quito, President Hurtado convoked the National Security Council and approved placing Guayaquil under military control, which Governor Hidalgo has now announced to the press. Government Minister Galo Garcia traveled today to Guayaquil to coordinate "the operation that will be set in motion on Friday," it has been officially announced.

FOREIGN MINISTER CLARIFIES STAND ON BORDER ISSUE

PA171526 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0336 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] Quito, 16 Dec (EFE) -- Ecuador would not be intersted in holding talks with Peru regarding their border problems if the objective of the talks was the placing of landmarks in an undemarcated area of the Amazon region. Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez stressed this today at a press conference called mainly to discuss the subject and to ask his fellow Ecuadoreans for the "level-headedness and serenity" needed to deal with it.

Valencia was responding to a congressman who criticized the Foreign Ministry because of its attitude of "surrender" vis-a-vis Peru. Describing the actions taken to defend the Ecuadorean position, Valencia clarified that in his talks with the Peruvian foreign minister in Panama and Saint Lucia there was no mention of the presumed placing of landmarks in the undemarcated region. According to Peru, this is the only unresolved issue which is blocking a solution to the problem. The stretch of land, about 78 km long, is located in the area between the Santiago and Zamora Rivers, in the Amazon basin, which was the site of armed clashes in January and February of this year.

Valencia said that Ecuador maintains its demand for recognition of its Amazonian rights as well as its stand on achieving a just and permanent peace which will respect the country's historical territorial integrity. He added that in this context "Peru's actions to colonize the territory which it maintains under its control and which Ecuador claims, is part of the same territorial problem." He also pointed out that Ecuador expressed to the UN General Assembly its reservations "regarding whatever Peru does in the area east of the Condor Mountain range, because boundaries have not been set in that area, not even by the protocol of Rio de Janeiro." The protocol of Rio de Janeiro was signed by the two countries in 1942 following a brief war. Valencia added that similar statements have been made recently before the OAS General Assembly and in Ecuador.

BRIEFS

1981 PETROLEUM SALES -- Between January and November, 1981, the Ecuadorean state petroleum corporation obtained 4.08 billion sucres from the sale of 5.7 million barrels of petroleum, an official report states. It was added that the average price per barrel during these 11 months was $28.50. [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Dec 81 PA]

NEW UN SECRETARY GENERAL CONDEMNS TERRORISM

PY242157 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1415 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] Lima, 19 Dec (TELAM) -- The new UN secretary general, Peruvian Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar, has condemned terrorism which tries to achieve its ends within an established internal order.

In an interview granted to TELAM, Perez de Cuellar -- who will travel to New York on 29 December to assume his duties, replacing the Austrian Kurt Waldheim next 2 January -- affirmed that terrorism which wants to reach its ends within an established internal order through desperate action is condemnable. If terrorism is condenmable in democratic countries, because there they have all the means for publicizing their demands and coming to power, if possible.

Perez de Cuellar asserted that terrorism deserves special consideration when in a desperate way -- which in reality is not contructive -- it tries to gain freedom, national liberation, or to end colonialism or foreign oppression. In his chat, Perez de Cuellar affirmed that the violation of human rights is a permanent problem.

He added: With respect to human rights, I have had some personal involvement in it and I believe that it is a permanent problem. The signatory countries of the UN Human Rights declaration have the obligation to preserve those rights, and the UN has the obligation to constantly guard them.

Elaborating on this topic, he emphasized that what we have to do now is to try to keep the observance of human rights from being frustrated or compromised by questions of political interests. Their concepts are very noble and one should not soil them. The problem of whether violations of human rights exist or not is at bottom an incidental question. What is important is that there is a declaration in that sense and an objective criterion must prevail and not a subjective one.

He then emphasized that the UN has a special commission to consider this topic and it refers its decisions to the secretary general, and he recalled that he had had some missions related to human rights and that he has some knowledge of the problem, although not as much as he would like, but he feels that the vigilance over these rights must be continued in a permanent form.

Perez de Cuellar then referred to the problem of armaments and disarmament, noting that both large and small countries should be included in this, since it would be truly unjust if we tried to castigate the big ones and not the small ones, above all because the responsibilities are equal though of different natures.

The arms problem, he asserted, exists both in Europe and in Latin America, but in Europe there is twice as big a problem since there are both conventional and atomic arms, and one is as serious as the other.

In reference to the incidence of diversion of public funds to warlike ends, the situation changes with respect to Latin America, he said, adding that in our area the problem is even more compelling because in Europe this diversion of resources is not such a big problem for development as in our countries, the majority of which have pressing development problems.

The new UN secretary general affirmed that he didn't believe that organization should be a center of demagoguery where declarations and speeches are made, but an entity that assumes great responsibility.

The world must put an end to underdevelopment, he stated, not only through disarmament. I believe that disarmament must be achieved by the path of peaceful solutions to differences of all types and by generating a broad atmosphere of confidence at the international level.

Persisting with this topic, he said that one should not be so naive as to believe that the countries will become reasonable overnight and will say: Well, this is madness; we must stop it and quit purchasing [arms]; because disgracefully, the great problem with the arms race at bottom is lack of confidence. On the day when all countries of the world are able to generate confidence and to convince ourselves that the desire for peace is universal, perhaps then we will have begun to think in terms of disarmament or arms limitation.

He insisted that from now on, he is an international official, and even though Peru, Latin America and the Third World are in his thoughts, he must free himself of those sentiments when he must weigh a situation in which there is a confrontation between his geographic area and another. I will not be able to be UN secretary general unless I am able to maintain perfect equanimity, balance and impartiality, even if my heart tells me the contrary, he said. I have sworn to do something which I plan to carry out, like the honest man that I am.

Perez de Cuellar concluded by recalling that as a good Peruvian he has historical affection for Argentina, and he praised the personality of Argentine diplomat Carlos Ortiz de Rosas, who had also been nominated for secretary general, noting that their friendship had begun at the United Nations when they both were representatives of their respective countries.

INTELLECTUALS SPONSOR PRO-POLAND DEMONSTRATION

PY282010 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] A demonstration supporting Poland will be held in Lima today under the sponsorship of a group of intellectuals headed by Energy and Mines Minister Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, who has Polish ancestors, and by writer Mario Vargas Llosa.

The silent demonstration will start at the monument to mothers in the (Campo de Marte), and each of the demonstrators will carry a lit candle. This demonstration has been widely advertised by all Lima news media.

STRIKE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED; TALKS SCHEDULED

PY282003 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] President Belaunde Terry has referred to the Pucallpa general strike as a preposterous one for which nobody can provide a satisfactory explanation. He said: I understand that they have ended the strike, and I am pleased by that. Now I will be able to hold talks with the Pucallpa leaders.

President Belaunde Terry will meet today with all those leaders who have staged this general and indefinite strike. However, the leaders have said in Pucallpa that the strike has only been temporarily suspended and that if the president does not comply with the conditions that they will submit, the strike will be resumed on 2 January 1982.

TERRORIST GROUP ATTACKS POLICE STATION

PY281933 Paris AFP in Spanish 2257 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] Lima, 27 Dec (AFP) -- It was learned in this capital today that approximately 50 armed masked men attacked a police station at midnight yesterday in the locality of (?Yanaoreco), 70 km from [name indistinct], southeastern part of Peru, leaving four Republican Guards wounded, one of them very seriously.

The masked men attacked from all four sides, encountering a strong resistance which prevented them from blowing up a television repeating station which belongs to Entelperu, withdrawing with an unspecified number of wounded men toward the rough mountainous terrain in the area.

Guard Alberto Janampa, 38 years of age, with two other companions were urgently taken to Lima, while three [number as received] other wounded companions were treated in the hospital of Ayacucho, approximately 600 km southeast of here.

A few weeks ago in most of the provinces of Ayacucho department the government lifted the state of emergency that had been imposed after a number of terrorist attacks, including one on a police station during which a terrorist group killed a uniformed agent and a civilian.

These attacks drastically dropped under military control, but they have recurred with less intensity during the past few days. On Christmas Eve, approximately 20 masked men occupied a locality in the area, destroying the post and telegraph office and setting the government office on fire.

BRIEFS

NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF -- Rear Adm Ricardo Zevallos Newton, Peruvian Navy chief of staff, was introduced to the higher officers and personnel of the Navy yesterday at a ceremony presided over by Navy Commander Rear Adm Jorge du Bois Gervasi. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 Dec 81 p A 12 PY]

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS -- Lima, 12 Dec (AFP) -- The Senate approved last night the appointments by the Executive Branch of former Interior Minister Jose Maria de la Jara as Ambassador to Italy and of Alejandro Deustua Arrospide as Ambassador to Brazil. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1629 GMT 12 Dec 81 PY]

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION SECRETARY -- Lima, 12 Dec (AFP) -- The Ecuadorean Luis Arriaga was elected new secretary general of the South Pacific Commission at the closing ceremony of the commission's regular meeting, succeeding the Peruvian Miguel Bakula. Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Colombia are the member countries and this commission has the object of defending the 200-mile territorial sea and its natural resources. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2020 GMT 12 Dec 81 PY]

SENATE DRUG COMMISSION -- The Senate unanimously approved a bill on 15 December which provides for the creation of a drug trafficking investigative commission within the Senate which will be in charge of studying the political implications brought about by this illegal activity. The members of this commission are Senators Ricardo Monteagudo, Fernando Calmcil Alfonso Ramos, Nicano Mujica, Jaime Cheneffusse, Luis Quintana and Genaro Ledesma. [Lima EXPRESSO in Spanish 16 Dec 81 p 10 PY]

URANIUM DEPOSIT -- Gen Juan Barreda, chairman of the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute, stated on 11 December that the Macusimayo region in Carabaya Province to the north of Puno allegedly has a uranium reserve of 5,000 tons. Studies to determine if its prospecting is technically and economically feasible will imply an investment of approximately $2 million. [Lima EXPRESSO 12 Dec 81 p 16 PY]

RED FLAG DENIES PLANE HIJACKINGS, POLICE ATTACKS

PA270206 Paris AFP in Spanish 2328 GMT 26 Dec 81

[By Eduardo Perez Iribarne]

[Excerpts] Caracas, 26 Dec (AFP) -- A new mantle of mystery has covered the hijacking of three Venezuelan planes on 7 December as a result of a recent communique issued by the Red Flag guerrilla group, to the effect that it did not participate in the operation. Several news media had initially held this subversive Venezuelan group responsible for the simultaneous hijackings, which has no precedent on the American continent.

A three-page mimeographed communique was presumably left before dawn 2 days ago in the mailbox of the newspaper ANTORCHA of the city of Barcelona, Anzoategui State, 500 km east of Caracas. A note attached to the communique said: "Please distribute to the other communications media." The communique stated that "Red Flag did not participate either in the planning or implementation of the triple hijackings."

In the document Red Flag expressed its solidarity with the group which carried out the triple hijacking and criticizes the Venezuelan Communist Party for having compared the incident to the blowing up of a Cubana de Aviacion plane 5 years ago in which 76 persons died, which was perpetrated by anti-Castro activists. However, the document of the guerrillas did not identify the group responsible for the hijacking although it does state that "Our organization was aware that this action was being planned." The subversive document denies the government reports of the attack carried out against a rural National Guard (Militarized police) post in Santa Maria de Ipire on 22 November 1981, in which guardsman Jose Isabel Flores was killed by the subversives. Official reports on this incident said that one guerrilla had died in the attack.

"None of our companeros was either killed or wounded in this action and the guardsman was killed because he resisted and ignored the order to surrender," says the Red Flag communique. "The other five members of the National Guard post in Santa Maria de Ipire were treated with deference," says the communique. The document lists in detail the arms stolen in the last three guerrilla attacks against the National Guard post and two police stations.

In spite of the succession of attacks against police posts and the spectacular triple hijacking, the Venezuelan Government has said officially that there is no resurgence of guerrilla activity in the country, labeling the events in question as "isolated incidents" caused by "misfits."

GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR NONINTERVENTION IN POLAND

FL232228 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2215 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico has called on the members of the Warsaw Pact, especially the Soviet Union, to abstain from military intervention in Poland because nothing could justify foreign interference in the Polish crisis. Only the Polish people themselves can solve the crisis.

The Mexican Government's position on the Polish problem was set out in a statement issued today by Secretary of Foreign Relations Jorge Castaneda. After consultation with President Jose Lopez Portillo, Castaneda read the statement which says that the situation in Poland can be described as serious for the international community because the crisis in that part of the world entails the risk of foreign intervention and internationalization. It is considered that the establishment of the state of siege and the adoption of measures of force by the army seriously harm the civilian population.

PRI ISSUES DECLARATION ON EVENTS IN POLAND

FL281350 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0025 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text of declaration on Polish events released by the Institutional Revolutionary Party on 26 December in Mexico City]

[Text] The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) expresses its concern over the political crisis that Poland is currently experiencing and it also gives its support to the position that has been adopted by the Mexican Government regarding that crisis.

On the basis of the basic political decisions that have been adopted by the Polish people themselves, our party believes that the formulas for resolving the crisis can only emerge from the Polish factions that are involved in the crisis.

It is our belief that the only viable solution must be based on respect for and dignity of human freedoms, on the preservation of legitimate social rights and on the strict application of justice, thus permitting a return to normalcy and an elimination of the state of emergency that currently exists.

Only the Polish people, in accordance with principle of self-determination, can seek a solution to their internal affairs. Any type of foreign intervention, no matter the basis of its ideology, will only help to deteriorate the situation, including the possibility of turning it in to an international problem and thus run the serious risk of placing international peace and security in serious danger.

The PRI, faithful to its declaration of principles and to the doctrine of non-intervention, urges all the country's progressive classes to remain alert, to repudiate any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Poland and to condemn every possibility that this crisis be taken advantage of by any type of economic interest to create other conflictive areas in the world.

ENVOY TO UN REJECTS KIRKPATRICK LETTER

PA290156 Paris AFP in Spanish 2138 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Panama City, 28 Dec (AFP) -- Carlos Ozores, Panama's permanent representative to the United Nations, has said that he considered a letter from Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, "not received." In the letter, Kirkpatrick strongly criticized the position adopted by Panama as a Third World country.

Ozores said that he tore up Ambassador Kirkpatrick's letter and considered it not received, because it was "not written in diplomatic terms and therefore it was sent to the wrong addressee."

Ambassador Kirkpatrick's letter was published in the New York TIMES, and a copy was distributed to all the members of the Third World movement. Apparently, the letter was the U.S. reaction to a speech made by Panamanian President Aristides Royo at the UN General Assembly session.

PNP WARNS OF POWER STRUGGLE IN NATIONAL GUARD

PA280308 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Dec 81 p 8c

[Text] "After the grave and complicated situation created by the sudden death of General Torrijos the middle of this year, Panama's political climate has been disturbed in the last few days of December by the unusual remarks of Hugo Spadafora, former deputy health minister and leader of a Panamanian guerrilla group which participated in the Nicaraguan civil war in 1979," said a communique released by the People's Nationalist Party [PNP] under the leadership of Olimpo Saez.

The communique added that "Spadafora made grave charges of corruption against the Royo government and of repression against the National Guard's G-2," when he said that "it is very difficult for the peopele to believe that we will have honest elections while we have repression under the direction of Colonel Noriega and the G-2 and while we have Colonel Noriega's brother presiding over the electoral tribunal."

"The PNP believes," said Saez, "that Spadafora's strong charges reveal the first open sign of a power struggle within the National Guard. It is not possible for Spadafora to have made the accusation against President Royo and Colonel Noriega over television and radio if Spadafora did not have strong support from one sector of the chiefs of the National Guard."

The PNP added that the consequences of this "power struggle within the National Guard high command can cause unestimable harm to the lives of the Panamanian people. Therefore, the PNP reaffirms its position of respectfully denouncing the exercise of political power by the General Staff, whose internal disputes should not cause pain, bloodshed and mourning for the members of the National Guard and much less for the Panamanian people."

It added: "One cannot ignore the overwhelming psychological reality that the National Guard took power by violence, has maintained it by violence and almost certainly also disputes it internally by violence. One of the thoughts of the great Panamanian Pablo Arosemena is very appropriate; SOLUTIONS IMPOSED BY FORCE CARRY THE SEED OF THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION." [capitalized phrase in italics]

The PNP concluded by stating that "Spadafora's charges to the effect that 'we are heading toward the brink of political chaos and physical violence' should be taken as a warning to the General Staff by one of its closest collaborators and allies, that it should make a turnabout and stop controlling, using and abusing the political power which legitimately belongs to the Panamanian people, who should decide their own destiny in democratic ways."

Party Leader's Car Attacked

PA272341 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Dec 81 p 8C

[Text] Carlos Ivan Zuniga, president of the People's Action Party [PAPO], was the victim of an attack when unidentified persons vandalized his car before dawn on Wednesday. In reporting the attack, a PAPO leader recalled that previously Zuniga's car had been attacked by a group of individuals "which included Alonso Bucno Pinzon and Gaspar Toti Suarez and Wednesday's attack was the second on the political opposition leader's car."

Political circles have been commenting on a written PAPO statement reporting "a tendency of certain sectors to use violence in the political struggle, especially against those who, like the PAPO leaders, promote peaceful solutions to the country's institutional crisis.

EDITORIAL SCORES U.S. LABOR POLICIES ON CANAL

PA280436 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 27 Dec 81 p 4A

[Editorial: "Labor Conflict"]

[Text] Panamanian labor groups have filed suit against the Panama Canal Commission in U.S. courts. The Panamian workers base their suit on violations of the Panama Canal Treaty by the Panama Canal Commission. The specific issue is the Panama Canal Commission's interpretation of the Republic of Panama's social security laws. The commission, like other U.S. agencies in Panama refuses to pay its employees the 13th month. Regarding the second portion of the 13th month, which must be paid exclusively by management to the Social Security Agency, the policy of deducting it from the salaries of employees have been established, violating Panama's Social Security Law and an article of the Panama Canal Treaty.

In their suit, the Panamanian workers stress that "the Panama Canal Commission has arbitrarily interpreted a Panamanian law, has violated it and has applied U.S. labor laws in the Republic of Panama." They point out that "Article X of the Panama Canal Treaty regarding employment by the Panama Canal Commission clearly states the rights of Panamanian workers in the fields of employment, salary, stability, promotion, 'social security', union activities...." That is why the workers say that it has clearly been established that employees of the Panama Canal Commission are covered by the social security laws of the Republic of Panama.

It has also been reported that the other labor suits are being presented to the U.S. courts. Regarding the labor union, the workers claim that the United States has arbitrarily, illegally, and unilaterally applied regulations of the U.S. Office of Labor Relations, which harm Panamanian sovereignty and drastically reduce the workers' rights to freely join labor unions, as established in the previously mentioned article X of the treaty. Panamanian union sectors have repeatedly said that labor conflicts with U.S. agencies in the canal area are increasing and that there is "indifference and ill will on the part of commission officials to try to settle these problems."

Labor spokesmen in the canal area have said that just when they thought that there would be an end to the double salary scale that went into effect with the treaty on 1 October 1979, during the last meeting of the board of directors held in Washington a few weeks ago, it was decided through a majority vote by the U.S. representatives, not only to maintain the double salary scale, but to increase some salaries, thereby affecting the curtailing the salary rights of most of the Panamanian workers in the canal area. According to labor leaders, the problem worsens in view of the uncooperative attitude of top officials of the Panama Canal Commission. Some labor leaders have said that the "deputy administrator of the Panama Canal, a Panamanian citizen, has not been very clear in explaining the problem and they hope that he will clarify this delicate situation."

EL SALVADOR

ARMY THWARTS PLANNED ATTACK ON SAN VICENTE

PA282041 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 Dec 81 p 3

[Excerpt] The 5th Infantry Brigade, headed by Col Napoleon Alvarado, conducted an intensive search on 25 December on the slopes of the Chichontepec Volcano in San Vicente. During the operation, Salvadoran Air Force planes attacked a camp and several machinegun nests a short distance from San Cayetano Istepeque, thus breaking up the extremists' plans to carry out surprise attacks on some areas of the city of San Vicente, according to military sources.

FMLN REPORTS RESULTS OF JUNE-DECEMBER OPERATIONS

PA281613 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] With the defeat of the army operations in Morazan Department, our people have once again shown that they are invincible. We already have specific figures on the FMLN operations from June to December 1981, which demonstrate once more the military strength of our forces.

Between June and December the FMLN carried out 215 harassment actions, 253 ambushes, 126 clashes, 378 acts of sabotage and explosions, took over 85 towns, including farms, and blew up 72 electric towers, 77 transformers, 68 power poles and 27 telephone lines.

In addition, the FMLN forces launched 176 operations against the enemy, causing 2,083 casualties to the dictatorship. The FMLN had 166 casualties. Our forces captured 58 prisoners of war, 30 [words indistinct] 3 airplanes, 3 light aircraft, 33 vehicles, 10 helicopters, 6 patrol boats, 1 bulldozer, 8 armored personnel carriers and 1 tank.

GUATEMALA

REBELS ATTACK POLICE IN HUEHUETENANGO, KILL 5

PA281914 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Several subversive activities were carried out in the interior over the past 3 days. As a result of these actions, seven people were killed, eight were injured and considerable damage was reported. The most serious involved an attack on the police post in (La Mesilla), Huehuetenango, on the Mexican border. A guerrilla contingent there killed five policemen and set fire to the building that housed the (?Finance Police headquarters), the customs house and the post office. The subversives meanwhile blocked the Inter-American Highway and roads [words indistinct].

Other Attacks

PA281958 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Excerpts] San Jose Poaquil, Chimaltenango -- A group of seditious elements raided a house here in which two policemen lived and killed one of them. Another citizen was killed as well and two others were wounded. The terrorists also detonated a Claymore mine here, destroying a vehicle.

Meanwhile, in (Morales Izabal), some 20 guerrillas attacked 3 trailers, a truck and a private car on the main road. The terrorists fired at one of the vehicles and wounded one of the drivers. They ended by setting fire to the five vehicles. On the road from San Miguel Uspantan, Quiche, to (Tacoban), Alta Verapaz, a group of saboteurs cut down several trees and blocked the road. They also destroyed the (Chabac) bridge.

Ciudad Vieja Mayor Killed

PA281905 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Journalist Gonzalo Quinonez Paredes, mayor of Ciudad Vieja, Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepequez, was a victim of violence at home yesterday. A group of unidentified men knocked on his door and when he opened it they shot him point-blank. Quinonez Paredes, a member of the Guatemalan Christian Democrats and for a long time correspondent for a radio, was very well known.

Meanwhile, several youths reportedly have been kidnapped, including Quinonez Paredes' son. Last Wednesday evening a group of unidentified individuals kidnapped several youths who were participating in one of the traditional Christmas celebrations and took them to an undisclosed location. One of these youths was Herbert Quinonez Samayoa, son of Mayor Quinonez Paredes. So far there is no clue on the identity of the perpetrators or the reasons for committing this crime. Authorities are stepping up their investigation to find the culprits.

Meanwhile, seven bullet-riddled bodies reportedly have been found on the road to San Lucas Sacatepequez. Volunteer firemen at (Lisco) recovered the bodies of seven unidentified men from the bottom of a 15-meter cliff. The bullet-riddled bodies were found on the San Geronimo farm, on the old road to San Lucas Sacatepequez. None of the bodies had any documents to identify them and, according to the firemen, the judge at (Lisco) was unable to identify any of the bodies. A small piece of paper with the name (Roman Boja Palan) was found on one of the bodies. According to the authorities, these bodies might turn out to be those of the youths kidnapped in Ciudad Vieja. This, however, has not yet been confirmed.

CAPTAIN DESCRIBES SANDINIST ATTACK ON VESSEL

PA281926 Paris AFP in Spanish 1522 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] San Jose, 28 Dec (AFP) -- A Guatemalan-flag merchant ship with 33 crewmen on board was machinegunned by Sandinist patrol boats on 25 December off the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. This was reported today by the Yugoslav captain of the vessel, Petar Ignjatic. In a statement to LA NACION, San Jose newspaper, Ignjatic said the vessel sustained some 20 hits from .25-caliber [as received] weapons, but only one member of the crew was slightly wounded.

Ignjatic said the attack was "inexplicable" and "unacceptable" because "the channel of the Miskito Keys is an international waterway and Nicaragua is not under any kind of siege, so passage through this route is legal. "

The captain said that following the attack, and once the Zacapa had come to a stop, the Sandinists boarded it and "searched the vessel thoroughly." They ordered the ship to Puerto Cabezas, where the crew had to show their documents. According to Ignjatic, the Sandinist attack surprised the Zacapa's crew while they were celebrating Christmas. He added that he tried to communicate with the attacking vessel but did not receive an answer.

The Guatemalan-flag vessel was manned by 22 Yugoslavs, 10 Guatemalans and a Finn. One Guatemalan, Ruben Casasola, suffered a splinter wound when he opened a door to see what was happening. The Zacapa is in Puerto Limon, a Costa Rican port, and will sail to Santa Marta, Colombia, en route to Europe.

CHIEF OF STAFF ON SUBVERSION, U.S. AID STAND

PA280328 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Dec 81 pp 2, 83

[Excerpts] Gen Benedicto Lucas Garcia, Guatemalan Army chief of staff, said yesterday that terrorist activities by foreign communists in the capital represent merely a change in the subversives' strategy now that they are unable to do anything in the highlands because of the pressure the armed forces are exerting on them. General Lucas reported that 60-100 Cuban subversives have arrived in Guatemala to destroy our system. He said, "We know how they entered the country and where to find them. We are following their steps closely and we will soon catch them.

"We are not afraid of these mercenaries. They are merely criminals who come to our country to murder honest citizens who detest the violence unleashed by international communism."

The chief of staff mentioned the attack on the Salvadoran Consulate. This supposedly was carried out by a Salvadoran guerrilla group. General Lucas said, "I don't believe they were Salvadoran guerrillas because they would have been caught already. The Salvadoran guerrillas are desperate after their clashes with the military forces." He said, "However, we cannot discard the fact that they might have been Salvadorans operating here. In several clashes guerrillas who are apparently foreigners have fallen. They are the ones who are trying to destroy our democratic system."

Gen Benedicto Lucas mentioned a Mexican newsman named Menendez, who publishes POR ESTO magazine which is financed by the Cuban Government. Menendez has called Lucas a criminal without even knowing him. General Lucas said, "I would like to speak with this Mr Menendez and discuss my way of thinking. He is judging me without knowing me, and that is not the attitude of a man, but of someone who is involved. That is the attitude of a false newsman and he is the one who can be labeled a criminal."

He said, "I also want to mention the so-called Argentine newsman who, according to the Mexican press, was shot to death in the Guatemalan highlands. We don't have to give explanations to foreign organizations who have never explained to us why they have unleashed a campaign to discredit Guatemala. If a newsman, whoever he may be, enters Guatemala illegally and mixes with subversive groups, then he runs the risk of dying in combat. They say he was a reporter covering the news, but if he was mixed up with the guerrillas he was one of them and ran the risk of dying in a clash."

General Lucas discussed the aid the United States can give Central American countries to fight subversion. He said, "There is a system in the United States whereby Senate or Congressional leaders place conditions on possible aid to Central America. They claim human rights are being violated when the country in question is poor or underdeveloped like us. However, they have never condemned the human rights violations in Cuba, Poland, the USSR and other places. He said in conclusion, "Communism, abetted by the USSR, can advance and that would be the downfall of the United States. The Russians never ask anyone's permission to act."

HONDURAS

GUERRILLAS, WEAPONS DISCOVERED IN REFUGEE CAMP

PA290246 Paris AFP in Spanish 2319 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Dec (AFP) -- Leonel Gutierrez Minera, director general of population and immigration policy, said here that the Honduran immigration police had discovered suspected guerrillas among the Salvadoran refugees and that with the army's aid had seized a considerable quantity of weapons and ammunition.

According to the official, this has compelled the Honduran Government to take measures to prevent the refugee status from being used by guerrillas, "who constantly move in the border area between El Salvador and Honduras." Gutierrez also said the Honduran immigration officials have begun to transfer 3,000 Salvadoran refugees from the area in La Virtud to a place called Mesa Grande, a new camp established in San Marcos de Ocotepeque, in the western part of the country, far from the combat area.

NICARAGUA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ON COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ATTACKS

PA281417 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Communique No 28 issued by the Defense Ministry in Managua 27 December]

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports the following:

1. At the outset of December counterrevolutionary gangs entered Nicaragua from Honduras, where their camps are located. They attacked Sandinist People's Army [EPS] border guards in various locations and members of Reserve Battalion 50-09 on the banks of the Coco River, in the region of Waspan, northern Zelaya. The surprise attacks were possibly due to the ease with which they move about in Honduran territory in order to enter Nicaragua.

2. As a result of these attacks, the following companeros of the EPS border guards died and their bodies have been recovered: Lt (Luis Amado Chavarria), (Carlos Altamirano Bordas), (Noel Rios Lobos), (Jairo Rosales), (Jose Salomon Unguia Pravia), (Hugo Cruz Oporta) and (Roger Smith Lopez), a member of state security.

3. So far the following companeros, also members of the EPS border guards, are missing: 2d Lt (Reynaldo Mairena Amador), (Julio Cesar Granado Lopez), (Rafael de Trinidad Gomez Rios), (Jose Antonio Torres Morales), (Ignacio Ortega Sequeirra), (Edgar Espinoza Gonzalez), (Juan Jose Mendoza), (Rogelio Perez Arauz), (Juan Antonio Rios Perez), (Eleno Espinoza Hernandez), (Teofilo Rodriguez Hernandez), (Juan Rudama Duarte), (Juan Cruz Gonazlez Rubina), (Roberto Reyes Mercado), (Bernave Perez Solis), (Ernesto Aguilar Sanchez), (Marco Antonio Lopez Rodriguez) and (Luis Eduardo Florez Ortiz).

4. The following members of Reserve Battalion 50-09 are also missing: (Gabriel Florez Lopez), (Juan Florez Lopez), (Gabriel Cano Morales), (Luis Cerna Urbina), (Melardo Andino Martinez), (Alberto Hernandez Davila), (Geronimo Gago Martinez), (Alfonso Nunez Torres) and (Manuel Cruz Urbina).

5. In accordance with the Sandinist armed forces' regulations, the dead companeros have been promoted to the next higher military rank.

We swear that their deaths will not go unpunished. Free fatherland or death! Managua, 27 December 1981, Public Relations Section, Defense Ministry.

PARTY OFFICERS DISCUSS STATUS OF FREE EXPRESSION

PA281516 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Dec 81

["Social Democratic Party Roundtable," with Guillermo Potoy, communications secretary, and Luis Rivas Leiba, political secretary -- live]

[Excerpts] [Potoy] We have dealt with political matters, and I would like to comment on international relations and freedom of expression. We want to talk about freedom of expression not as a political matter, because we do not believe it is a political matter, but as a social matter -- that is, we want to talk about the censorship or straitjacket placed on the news media. We cannot say it is censorship because the media have had to censor themselves. It would have been better, however, if guidelines had been issued on what can or cannot be mentioned.

We also see that foreign policy has been mishandled. We are supposed to be nonaligned. This means we do not lean in favor of anyone just for the sake of following a trend we have been following since the beginning. On the contrary, it means assuming an attitude before events regardless of who acts, supporting it if it is good and opposing it if it is bad.

Here we can see many things. For example the Russian invasion of Afghanistan is bad and we Nicaraguans, that is, the Nicaraguan Government, claim that we condemn, that we are opposed to intervention. This is part of being nonaligned. We must be opposed to intervention. Yet Russia invaded Afghanistan, killed many of its people, and we have not condemned the Russians who have massacred the Afghan people. Here we have a contradictory attitude. We go to the United Nations and say we want peace for El Salvador, and go to the OAS and refuse to support peace in that country.

[Rivas] What we have to know is if Nicaragua assumed that attitude because the United States was in the bloc seeking peace for El Salvador. Or was it because we sincerely opposed it? We agree that a country must state its opinions abroad based on its own convictions and not if so-and-so is in that bloc, if the Soviet Union likes it, if Cuba approves, or if the United States disapproves. A country must be free to express its criteria at home and abroad. In international forums the nation must express its true beliefs.

Another thing: In important decisions, a government, especially one not born of the people's votes like ours, makes decisions which I am sure if the people had been consulted they would not have approved. An example of this is Afghanistan. If consulted, the Nicaraguans would have condemned the shameless genocidal intervention in Afghanistan. The same goes for Poland. Out of every 100 persons, not even 5 approve of the repression of the people by the Polish Army or of the threats of a Russian invasion. However, our government has not protested. On the contrary, in LA PRENSA we saw a copy of a message sent by the FSLN political sector urging the government information media to publish only information from TASS and PRELA. The others are liars and manipulated and so forth. I do not know how this letter arrived at LA PRENSA, but it is a fact. It is a shame, truly embarrassing, to see how the FSLN is submitting in this respect. With this letter they are admitting that only Cuban and Russian information is valid for them.

[Potoy] This is proof of their alignment. After the revolution Nicaragua could have been a nonaligned nation respected by all, but we have seen that this is not the case. In the case of Poland, it resembles Somozism in times of war. There are prisons, dead, wounded and brutal repression of the people and workers. When Somozism did this here, many nations protested. This country, which claims to be revolutionary and to defend the workers' rights and freedoms, should have come out against the Polish Government, which is repressing the workers.

[Rivas] In our trips through Latin America and Europe, we have seen the great deterioration of the revolution's image abroad. Countries which supported us from the beginning, such as Costa Rica, Venezuela and Peru, do not now see the same image. To a certain extent this is depressing. We expected this revolution to be the example and promote a number of revolutions based on democracy and are sorry to see otherwise. If Nicaragua were now announcing free elections, a truly democratic political party law, programmed municipal elections, a constituent assembly on the way, this would have produced joy. We see, however, that while the political party law was being discussed at the State Council an FSLN commander said that power is not at stake. They will give us four Sandinist candidates so the people can vote for them. In other words, no party can reach power through elections. We still have parties, and what we protest is the Marxist, Leninist trend of the revolution. This is what we have protested.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENS SESSION ON 28 DECEMBER

Fidel Attends

FL281604 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1456 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Well, televiewer friends, we were about to bid farewell but we have a last-minute report from the Palace of Conventions. We have Comrade Cesar Baquez on the line. Do you hear me? We are on the air, Cesar.

[Baquez] Well, we can tell you that at 0900 the constitutive session of the second legislature of the National Assembly of the People's Government was opened with the attendance of our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, and the rest of the party's Politburo members. In this first part, Comrade Fabio Grobart was elected to the elder's chair. But he clarified that by seniority Nicolas Guillen should have been the one elected, but that because of ill health he was not present and he was thus the next in turn.

In attendance at the assembly were 477 deputies of the 499 elected, more than 90 percent, which allows this session to meet. And at this time we are at the point of election of the commission for receiving the candidate's credentials and to continue later with the election of the president, vice president and secretary of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

That is what we have up to now. We knew that Revista de la Manana was coming to a close and we wanted to bring this report to you. Tomorrow we will have films of all this.

[Announcer] Very well, thank you, Cesar, for this last-minute report.

Grobart Opens Session

FL281651 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1602 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] The constitutive session of the National Assembly of the People's Government has already begun. With our commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, in attendance, the constitutive session of the National Assembly of the People's Government has opened in the Palace of Conventions in this capital.

Fabio Grobart, being the eldest deputy, is presiding due to the absence of Nicolas Guillen, who, due to an illness, is not in attendance. Maria N. Hernandez and Maria Gonzalez, the youngest deputies, are assisting Grobart.

On opening the assembly, Grobart highlighted the significance of this second legislative session of the National Assembly of the People's Government, which is taking place just 4 days short of the historical 23rd anniversary of the victory of the revolution. He stressed that this assembly is the supreme organization of state power and that it is also the veritable expression of the desires of the working people. With the guidance of Fidel and the party, the country has been institutionalized. We can observe that with the guidance of our top leader, Fidel Castro, and of our Marxist-Leninist party, we have been able to institutionalize the country, even with imperialism hovering 90 miles away.

This was said by Fabio Grobart, the eldest deputy who is presiding over the constitutive session of the national assembly of the people's government, when he opened the important meeting that is being held at the palace of conventions.

Grobart highlighted the fact that the struggle that was started by Cespedes and Marti was continued by groups of young revolutionaries at different times until reaching the time of Fidel, Raul, Abel, Frank, Camilo and Che.

The president of the National Assembly's constitutive session asked the deputies for an expression of gratitude toward these persons who have dedicated, in one way or another, their lives to achieving the victory of the revolution in our fatherland.

Castro Remarks

FL290222 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Text] At the People's Government National Assembly session this afternoon, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz proposed the members of the Council of Ministers to the Assembly. The various comrades who held posts in the Council of Ministers were reelected except in the cases of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and the State Committee for Prices, which were left vacant.

Fidel also addressed the deputies attending the session: [Begin Castro recording] Fellow deputies, I must comply with a constitutional procedure and I will do so. But I would first like to express, in the name of all the comrades who comprise the Council of State, how thrilled and deeply grateful we are for the huge honor, infinite encouragement that the duties, evidence of esteem, respect and trust that we have received from you mean to us. Though accustomed in the course of the years to receive from you this kind of demonstration, honors; though convinced of how you value our modest efforts on behalf of the revolution and the fatherland, our sense of modesty makes us feel no less overwhelmed by this proof of your trust. [applause] [end recording]

Blas Roca in Attendance

FL281712 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1604 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Fabio Grobart, in his and the deputies' names, has expressed the happiness of everyone because Blas Roca is attending the session. Roca has done an excellent job in presiding over the National Assembly during the past 5 years. The session includes 248 deputies of the first legislative assembly, who have been congratulated for the work they carried out. The congratulations were made extensive to the outgoing deputies.

Assembly Elects Officers

FL281718 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] The National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], meeting at the Palace of Conventions, has elected Flavio Bravo Pardo as its chairman, Jorge Lezcano Perez as vice chairman and Jose Aranaburo Garcia as secretary. Fabio Grobart, the eldest deputy, made the results of the election known, where 486 [as heard] deputies in attendance voted.

New President Addresses Deputies

FL281931 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Excerpt of speech by Flavio Bravo on his election as president of the People's Government National Assembly on 28 December in Havana -- recorded]

[Text] Comrade Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers; comrade members of the Council of State, comrade deputies; though overcome by emotion, allow me to thank our party and the People's Government National Assembly for this demonstration of trust in Comrades Jorge Lezcano Perez, Jose Aranaburo Garcia and myself on our election as vice president, secretary and president of this assembly, which is the most important body of the system of government in our socialist state and represents and expresses the sovereign freedom of all our working peoples. [applause]

More on Bravo Address

FL282230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2108 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] In an emotional speech following his election as president of the People's Government National Assembly, Flavio Bravo Pardo expressed gratitude for the trust placed on the new assembly officers. He said he was only a foot soldier of the revolution and had never thought of holding such a responsible office or of satisfactorily performing a duty that had been performed with such unexcelled brilliance by Comrade Blas Roca Calderio.

He then highlighted the personal merits of Blas, whom he described as one of the great men of Cuba and the revolution, deeply loved and respected by revolutionaries. He said Blas was like an older brother and a teacher of communism, always sensible, wise and fair, a modest laborer, a genuine interpreter of the working people, always loyal to Marxism-Leninism, the party and our dear leader, Fidel Castro.

Speaking in behalf of the new officers, Flavio Bravo said the assembly must be kept functioning at its best. He also spoke of the importance of never letting the National Assembly stop being dynmaic, full of life and strong, and close to the masses and their big and small problems.

He said that it was very difficult to take over from a historical figure of so much revolutionary, intellectual and parliamentary experience as esteemed and loved Comrade Raul Roa [acting president during Blas Roca's illness]. Bravo asked for understanding and help from the deputies and the people as a whole to successfully carry out this complex and responsible task. He promised to do all humanly possible not to disappoint them.

He said that now more than ever we needed all the Mambi spirit of our people and to be ready for any sacrifice required in the defense of our beloved fatherland. He added that more than ever, we needed an active and never-sleeping revolutionary vigilance as well as the key to our victories; the indestructible unity of our people with the state, party and Fidel. He also stressed the importance of daily heroism in the search for increased production, productivity, savings and efficiency in all our activities.

Council of State Officials

FL282247 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro was reelected today as president of the Council of State by the People's Government National Assembly. Army Gen Raul Castro was also reelected first vice president of the council. Elected as vice presidents were Juan Almeida Bosque, Ramiro Valdes Menendez, Guillermo Garcia Frias, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Blas Roca Calderio. Jose M. Miyar Barruecos was elected Council of State secretary.

Elected as members of the Council of State were Jose P. Machado Ventura, Pedro Miret Prieto, Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, Armando Hart Davalos, Sergio del Valle Jimenez, Arnaldo Milian Castro, Osmani Cienfuegos, Senen Casas Regueiro, Abelardo Colome Ibarra, Vilma Espin Guillois, Roberto Veiga Menendez, Jose Ramirez Cruz, Armando Acosta Cordero, Diocles Torralba Gonzalez, Flavio Bravo Pardo, Joel Domenech, Jose Ramon Fernandez Alvarez, Raul Roa Garcia, Severo Aguirre del Cristo, Luis Orlando Dominguez, Reinaldo Castro Yedra, Marta Depres Arozarena and Braulio Maza Oliva.

Council of Ministers Approved

FL290043 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Telephone report from the Palace of Conventions by (Diosdado Maso) and (Roberto Narchad)]

[Excerpts] The election of the Council of State, the president, vice president and secretary of the People's Government National Assembly and the designation of the members of the Council of Ministers were the focus of the first day of sessions of the Republic of Cuba's top government organ, which will sit until tomorrow at Havana's Palace of Conventions.

Commander in chief Fidel Castro himself, acting in his capacity as president of the Council of State, proposed candidates for the Council of Ministers. His proposal was unanimously approved. [Begin Castro recording] Among the attributions conferred upon the People's Government National Assembly by Article 73 of the republic's Constitution, paragraph 11 of this article provides for the designation at the proposal of the president of the Council of State of the first vice president, the vice president and the other members of the Council of Ministers. [end recording]

Comrade Raul Castro was reconfirmed as first vice president of the Council of Ministers. Ramiro Valdes, Guillermo Garcia, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Osvaldo Dorticos, Arnaldo Milian, Osmani Cienfuegos, Humberto Perez, Jose R. Fernandez, Joel Domenech, Diocles Torralba, Jose Lopez Moreno and Antonio Esquivel were elected as vice presidents. Antonio Esquivel replaces Comrade Flavio Bravo, who was elected president of the National Assembly today.

RAILROAD WORKERS MEETING CLOSES 27 DECEMBER

FL281344 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] The meeting of train schedules, the decrease of accidents, the conservation and the manufacture and repair of spare parts should be tasks of strick compliance by all railroad workers of the country in the coming year. This was declared by Guillermo Garcia Frias, member of the Politburo and minister of transportation, yesterday at the closing of the second national railroad workers meeting in Matanzas.

He stressed the need for workers to concentrate their efforts on the increase of efficiency. The head of transportation noted that, despite decrease, the number of accidents were still very high and he intends to increase demands, and be consistent, in order to minimize accidents and costs in terms of life and resources.

He emphasized the importance of the railroad workers' commitment to save 10,000 tons of oil during the coming year as well as the manufacture and repair of spare parts and the meeting of train arrival and departure schedules.

BRIEFS

BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT -- The British parliamentary delegation visiting Cuba as guests of the People's Government National Assembly has toured the Valles de Picadura cattle breeding farm east of Havana. Ramon Castro, a member of the party's Central Committee in Havana province, welcomed (Norman Bushman) and (Janey Bushman) of the British Labor Party and briefed them on the farm's development and objectives. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Dec 81 FL]

GOVERNMENT DISPUTES NEW U.S. SUGAR IMPORT TARIFF

PA272209 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Dec 81

[By Miguel Franjul]

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 27 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Dominican Government today expressed its disagreement with new U.S. agricultural legislation under which a 5-cent per pound tax is imposed on imported sugar.

President Antonio Guzman expressed the opinion that this legislation will have frankly negative effects on the Dominican economy since it will deprive the country of some $74 million in sugar-export income.

President Guzman told newsmen that the new tax will have a considerable effect on the Dominican Republic.

We estimate that the country will receive $74 million less from the sale of sugar on which the 5-cent tax is imposed and we consider this measure to be definitely negative for our economy.

The president said that this tax similarly affects the economies of other countries which export sugarcane to the United States.

Guzman said that his economic advisers are exhaustively studying the new legislation in order to have a more complete idea of its direct effects.

Senator Victor Gomez Berges said that a Senate commission will begin a similar study tomorrow.

SUGAR ACCORDS SOUGHT WITH VENEZUELA, MEXICO

FL281225 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Dominican authorities are interested in renewing talks regarding the lapsed sugar agreement with Venezuela. This information was released by (Federico Etchenique Nanita), director of the National Sugar [words indistinct] (?organization), who also said that a similar agreement will be sought with Mexico.

The official indicated that the possibility of renewing the agreement with Venezuela stems from the country's need of facing the situation of the international sugar market, which has worsened due to the (?petitions) of President Ronald Reagan's administration.

(Etchenique) also emphatically indicated that the authorities are seriously thinking about renewing the agreement with Venezuela and also seek a similar agreement with Mexico.

According to (Etchenique), there are various alternatives that are currently under study, because the country has to face the problems of the (?local) market and events on the international scene.

The official indicated that the possibilities of renewing the agreement with Venezuela are bright. We are seriously studying this possibility. Our sugar market needs new openings because President Reagan's recent approval of the agricultural law seriously harms the traditional sugar exporting countries, (?Etchenique) added.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS

FL241703 Bridgetown CANA in English 1635 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Excerpts] St Johns, Antigua, 24 Dec (CANA) -- The government of Antigua and Barbuda last night invoked the relevant section of the telecommunications act, effectively taking over the local operations of Cable and Wireless, the British multinational which for years provided the eastern Caribbean telegraph and phone links with the outside world.

The decision was taken after a hastily-convened meeting called to discuss an industrial dispute between the management of the company and 11 former employees, persons dismissed in 1979.

Yesterday the workers enforced an order of the industrial court, after the company's failure to compensate them.

In carrying out the court's order, the employees, accompanied by their lawyers and bailiff, took a few items of the company's major mechanical and technical equipment as well as transport vehicles. As a result, not only Antigua and Barbuda but a number of other countries in the eastern Caribbean were cut off from the outside world. Government has placed Antiguan Mr Mickey Matthew in charge of Cable and Wireless.

Last night engineers worked throughout the night to reinstall equipment removed earlier. Cable and Wireless operations were back to normal this morning.

DOMINICA

PRIME MINISTER CHARLES OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE

FL282356 Bridgetown CANA in English 1827 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 28 Dec (CANA) -- Dominica's prime minister, Mary Eugenia Charles, has conceded that an abortive December 18 coup would offset the pace at which this impoverished Caribbean island develops. But the region's lone female leader said Dominica could still look forward to the future with some optimism.

Addressing shareholders of the National Commercial and Development Bank, Miss Charles, who is also finance minister, referred to the December attempt to topple her 18-month government -- the third this year.

She said the incident, which left three men dead and 10 persons injured, would certainly set the country back "a pace or two." But, added Miss Charles, "after nearly 18 months in office (for the government), the prospects do look a great brighter and we can look towards the future with much more optimism.

Miss Charles told the fourth annual general meeting of the bank that the performance in the public sector had shown remarkable improvements and that for the first time in more than 20 years the current account was within sight of going into a surplus position.

Miss Charles noted that the consumer price index had levelled off to an increase slightly less than 10 percent during 1981. She said that the sacrifice requested of workers seems to have brought the desired results in a very short time. However, Miss Charles said that there were still some trade union leaders bent on frustrating the efforts to achieve the required level of stability in the industrial climate by demanding indiscriminate wage hikes.

She told the gathering that the Dominica private sector, which had been moribund for a number of years, was now showing signs of rejuvenation.

The prime minister cautioned that Dominicans should be on the alert for "notwithstanding the good work being done, there are persons who through greed and unscrupulous personal ambitions are intent on destabilising the society."

In referring to the latest attempted coup, Miss Charles said that it was the work of a few malcontents "who will not put their hands to honest work but are willing to sell the fortune of this country for their own personal gain."

In its annual report, the bank said that its commercial section made a net profit of 436,000 East Caribbean dollars [EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.] and had a 10 percent dividend on shares while its agricultural, industrial and development division made net earnings of over 12,000 dollars after government subsidies. The bank also reported that that sector had increased its loan approval by 103 percent over the 1980 figure and also raised its loan disbursment by 118 percent. In both cases the amount of money was over 2 million EC dollars.

GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO EXTEND STATE OF EMERGENCY

FL282329 Bridgetown CANA in English 1904 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Roseau, Dominica, 28 Dec (CANA) -- The state of emergency imposed here on December 19 after a group of armed men attempted to take over the police headquarters and the island's main prison is to be extended for a further two months.

The Dominica Government has indicated that it will be asking parliament -- where it has a two-thirds majority -- to approve the extension on January 7.

According to the order paper circulated here for the first parliamentary session of 1982, Prime Minister Eugenia Charles is to table the motion seeking the extension.

According to the order paper, Miss Charles is to ask parliament to extend the state of emergency to March 10 "or until the president (?in a proclamation) published in the Gazette, declares that such a state of public emergency is at an end."

Investigations Continue

FL051736 Bridgetown CANA in English 1713 GMT 25 Dec 81

[CANA slug: "The Following Item Has Been Subjected to Official Censorship"]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 25 Dec (CANA) -- Police today detained the managing director of a leading hotel here as they continued their probe into last Saturday's abortive attempt to overthrow the government for the third time this year.

Julian Giraud, managing director of the Sisserou Hotel situated on the island's south coast, was detained by the authorities under the present state of emergency. His detention brings to nine the number of people detained here so far since the bloody attempt by armed men to take over the police headquarters and the island's main prison. Three people were killed and 10 were injured.

The Civil Service Association (CSA), in a letter sent to Miss Charles, said it hoped that with the latest attempt at the bloody overthrow of democracy in Dominica the United Kingdom and the United States will find it possible to respond to any request for assistance from the Government of Dominica.

The association also suggested that government invite trade unions, employers, church organizations and opposition members to parliament to a briefing session to give accurate information to a wide cross section of the society and to seek whatever assistance may be considered necessary whether in terms of troops intelligence and/or interrogation experts to ensure that the entire conspiracy is brought to light.

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles said in a Christmas message that Dominicans had a lot to be thankful for, particularly the failure of men greedy for riches and power to overthrow her government.

She said that despite the latest attempt she was glad to see Dominicans remaining "calm and united." The prime minister appealed to people with information concerning last Saturday's abortive attempt to assist the police in their investigations.

HEAVY RAINS RESULT IN WIDESPREAD DAMAGE

FL290006 Bridgetown CANA in English 1855 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 28 Dec (CANA) -- Heavy rains in Dominica over the long Christmas weekend have caused in excess of one million dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) worth of damage, communication, works and tourism minister, Henry Dyer, said today.

The showers starting on Saturday triggered many landslides and blocked roads leading to and from Roseau. It was still raining heavily today.

Mr Dyer told reporters that his ministry had received news of the destruction of a bridge in the east of the island, as well as damage to roads islandwide, particularly in the south. Mr Dyer said that in one instance a recently built road had been washed away and that a new water supply system now being installed in the south of the island, had also been damaged.

Roseau, the capital, has been without drinking water since early this morning. This the minister has attributed to the bad weather. He said a team of government officials headed by himself will soon undertake a tour of the stricken areas.

GRENADA

SPORTS, CULTURE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CUBA

FL231350 Bridgetown CANA in English 1334 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 23 Dec (CANA) -- Grenada and Cuba have signed a technical agreement covering sports and culture, according to an official statement here. The statement said that the agreement was signed yesterday by Grenada's education, youth and sports minister, Jacqueline Creft, and Julian Rizo, the Cuban ambassador to Grenada.

It said that under the agreement Cuba is to assist Grenada in the areas of dance, theatre and music, while Grenada is to assist in teaching the art of steelband music to Cubans. The agreement also covers the exchange of personnel in various sports developments and for the exchange of football teams between the two countries during the coming year.

Cuba has been assisting Grenada in a wide range of areas including health, as well as the construction of the island's international airport at Point Saline since they established diplomatic relations in 1979. Earlier this year the two countries signed a technical cooperation agreement covering education, housing, fisheries, road construction, as well as agriculture and agro-industries.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CREATION OF PRO-ARAB GUERRILLA GROUP ANNOUNCED

PA281716 Paris AFP in Spanish 1629 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Bogota, 28 Dec (AFP) -- A summit of Latin American guerrillas who support the Arab cause will be held in Mexico in April 1982, the leader of the movement, who identified himself as Commander Four, told the newspaper EL TIEMPO in a telephone call.

The guerrilla disclosed that he has organized a movement in Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador and several Central American countries in support of the Arab struggle. He explained that the movement is composed of Latin Americans and people of Arab descent.

"The commandos of support for the Arab cause were established in America in view of the need to strengthen the armed struggle against Israel," he said. He indicated that "we will soon officially offer our support to the PLO, led by Yasir 'Arafat."

The guerrilla chief said that it was decided several weeks ago in Venezuela that Colombia will be the country where the movement's first actions will be carried out, adding that "since they will be well planned, these actions will be spectacular." However, he noted that the movement will not cause problems to Colombia and the other South and Central American countries where the organization has extended.

"We are only seeking the solidarity of the people of those nations in stopping Israel's aggressiveness in the Middle East," he said, before announcing that the movement will be holding a summit in Mexico in April 1982.

COLOMBIA

POLICE CLASH WITH 'UNKNOWN ELEMENTS' IN BOGOTA

PA281922 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Bogota -- Four persons were killed and two were wounded in a fight today in the southern part of Bogota when a group of unknown elements attacked a police station. Two of the dead were identified as officers (Jorge Palacio Palacio) and (Jorge Gonzalez), while the other two, members of the assailant group, have not yet been identified.

The incident, according to the Bogota police, took place at the Patima police station, when a Fiat automobile with three persons inside parked in front of the station. As officers approached the vehicle to identify the occupants, they were met with gunfire. Officer Palacio Palacio was killed instantly, while Gonazlez died later at the police clinic. The attackers then fled. As they abandoned the car near the (Tinza) district, of Bogota a patrol car intercepted them. In the ensuing clash, two of the occupants were killed, but the third was able to escape.

Inside the vehicle, the authorities found a fragmentation grenade, a submachinegun, a Colt pistol and a lot of ammunition. Two officers wounded in the action were identified as (Ricardo Gomez) and (Jose Pastor Pinedo). They were both reported to be on the critical list.

Additional Clash Reported

PA290150 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Bogota -- Two guerrillas were killed early today in a clash with a police patrol in (Tiniza) neighborhood, Kennedy City. They were identified as (Marlon Brand Jacome Boada) of Cucuta and (Alberto Trujillo Moreno).

The two men were members of the self-styled Pedro Leon Arboleda subversive movement of the People's Liberation Army. They had a long criminal record and had escaped from the La Picota jail. Two national policemen were killed in the same clash.

GUYANA

ARMED FORCES CHIEF ASSERTS TERRITORIAL DEFENSE

PA240305 Paris AFP in Spanish 2049 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Georgetown, 23 Dec (AFP) -- The Guyanese Armed Forces are the national shield against any foreign country trying to reduce Guyanese territory, Armed Forces Commander Col David Granger said today. Granger spoke at the Ayanganna garrison in Georgetown during the graduation of 16 military cadets.

Granger urged the new officers to maintain an iron-firm national unity in view of the foreign attempts to violate Guyanese territorial integrity. Venezuela claims 159,000 square km of Guyana in the Essequibo region. This makes 5/8 of the territory of this former British colony.

"We have soldiers whose military capability is as brilliant as that of the best soldiers in the world," Granger added. "It is our duty to be prepared at all times to serve our country in view of the invasion threats against our sovereignty and territorial integrity," Granger said.

He did not mention Venezuela during any part of his official speech. Suriname and Guyana also have territorial differences. Brazil is Guyana's only neighbor which does not have any territorial claims.

"We must strengthen our nation by means of military and civic discipline, and increased production and foreign trade. These are the real bases for our people's development," he emphasized. Granger is not only armed forces chief. He also heads the police, peoples militia, border guard and fire department.

NEED TO PREPARE FOR EVENTUAL VENEZUELAN ATTACK

FL281427 Bridgetown CANA in English 1412 GMT 28 Dec 81

[By Mike James]

[Excerpts] Georgetown, Guyana, 28 Dec (CANA) -- Guyana's Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid has said the development of much manpower and scarce resources will be maintained by Guyana next year to counter any military attack by neighbouring Venezuela.

Venezuela has now stated clearly that she does not rule out military action against Guyana in pursuit of her totally unfounded and spurious claim to over two-thirds of our country, Prime Minister Reid said in a nationwide Christmas message.

Venezuela has relentlessly pursued the unjust cause at every international forum of which we share membership in an effort to intimidate us and cripple us economically, said Dr Reid. They are not only threatening our territorial integrity but our very survival.

The prime minister also called on all Guyanese for a massive boost in production and a sustained spirit of peace and brotherhood to overcome the country's problems in 1982. Peace not conflict must be out motto, he told the nation, so that we should not be diverted and led astray by the forces of disruption and chaos still active in our society.

Guyana has said it will not yield an inch of territory to Venezuela.